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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

New Jersey Historical Society.

CONSTITUTION

AND

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OF THE

New Jersey Historical Society,

AS AMENDED MAY 19, 1870.



NEWARK, N. J. :

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Constitution.

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 27, 1845. AMENDED MAY 27, 1847, JUNE 25,
1847, AND MAY 19, 1870.

I. This Society shall be called the NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

II. The object of this Society shall be to discover, procure and preserve whatever relates to any department of the history of New Jersey—natural, civil, literary or ecclesiastical; and generally of other portions of the United States.

III. The Society shall consist of Resident, Corresponding, and Honorary Members. Resident Members shall be persons residing within the State of New Jersey; Corresponding and Honorary Members shall be persons residing elsewhere, the Corresponding Members being natives or citizens of New Jersey; and not more than twenty Honorary Members shall be elected in any one year.

IV. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, first, second and third Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian; and there shall be an Executive Committee, con-

sisting of the Officers *ex officio*, and nine members, to be annually elected.

V. In addition to the Executive Committee, there shall be Standing Committees, of five members each : on Finance, on Publications, on the Library, and on Statistics ; and one on Nominations, to consist of three members ; which Committees shall be appointed annually by the President or presiding officer, and vacancies may be filled at any regular meeting.

VI. The duties of the several Officers and Committees shall be those customarily assigned to such Officers and Committees respectively, and shall be defined in the By-Laws.

VII. Resident members shall pay on their admission three dollars, and two dollars annually thereafter ; or the payment of twenty dollars at any one time shall constitute a Life Member, and exempt the individual from all future annual payments ; and every person who shall have regularly paid the annual fees and dues for twenty years successively, shall thereafter be a Life Member. But should any Resident Member, other than a Life Member, fail to pay the said annual fees and dues for three years, or at any time refuse to pay the same, he shall forfeit all the privileges of membership, and his name shall be erased from the list of members.

VIII. The annual and regular meetings of the Society shall be held at such times and places as the By-Laws may prescribe.

IX. The Library and the Cabinet of the Society

shall be located in the city of Newark, in the County of Essex.

X. All members, whether Honorary, Corresponding, or Resident, shall be elected by ballot.

XI. Any amendments or alterations in this Constitution may be made by a majority of votes of those present at a regular meeting of the Society: *Provided*, the same shall be reduced to writing, and entered on the journals of the Society at the last preceding regular meeting.

By-Laws.

ADOPTED MAY 7, 1845. AMENDED JAN. 27, 1847, SEPT. 27, 1848,
AND MAY 19, 1870.

I. MEETINGS of the Society shall be held on the third Thursday of January, in Trenton; on the third Thursday of May, in Newark; and on such day in September, and at such place, as the Society may from time to time designate; at which meetings, besides the regular business, addresses shall be delivered, or historical papers read, before the Society, by persons appointed by the Executive Committee. At the meeting in January, the Annual Report shall be read, and the election of officers for the ensuing year take place. In addition to the three regular meetings, the Society may hold adjourned meetings for the transaction of business, not oftener than once in each month; and special meetings may be called by the President or one of the Vice-Presidents, on the application, in writing, of any five members.

II. Nine members shall constitute a quorum, for the transaction of business, excepting when any amendment to the Constitution or By-Laws is to be acted on, when twenty must be present.

III. The President, one of the Vice-Presidents, or a Chairman *pro tem.*, shall preside at all meetings of the Society, and shall have a casting vote.

IV. The Recording Secretary shall have charge of the Constitution, By-Laws and Records of the Society. He shall keep a fair and accurate record of the proceedings of the Society in a book to be provided for the purpose, and give notice to the several officers and to the Executive and Special Committees, of all votes, orders, resolves and proceedings of the Society affecting them or appertaining to their respective duties. He shall give notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Society, by advertisement two weeks previously, in one newspaper printed at Newark, and in one printed at Trenton ; but when special meetings are called, three weeks notice shall be given, when practicable.

V. The Corresponding Secretary shall have the custody of all letters and communications to the Society ; excepting papers read or addresses delivered before the same, which shall be deposited in the Library. He shall, at every meeting, read such letters and communications as he may have received, and shall prepare all letters connected with the business or objects of the Society, excepting such for the preparation of which a Special Committee may be appointed. He shall notify all members of their election, and of such other matters as he may deem necessary, or be directed to communicate ; and shall keep, in suitable books to be provided for the purpose, copies of all important letters written on behalf of the Society. He shall carefully preserve the originals of all letters and other communications he may receive, and from time to time deposit the same in the archives of the Society.

VI. The Treasurer shall collect all dues and subscriptions, and keep the funds and securities of the Society. He shall pay the current expenses, and such other sums as may be ordered by the Society, or by the Chairmen of Standing Committees. He shall keep a true account of his receipts and payments, in books to be provided for the purpose, and at each January meeting, or oftener if required by the Executive Committee, render the same to the Society, duly audited by the Committee on Finance.

VII. The Librarian shall have charge of all the books and other property of the Society, except what by the By-Laws is committed to the Secretaries and Treasurer. He shall provide, at the expense of the Society, under the direction of the Standing Committee on the Library, suitable cases in which to keep all books, pamphlets, manuscripts, &c., which may belong to the Society. There shall also be a cabinet for minerals and natural curiosities, medals and American coins, for the safe preservation and suitable display of which, the Librarian shall, under the direction of the Standing Committee, procure proper and convenient receptacles. He shall keep a regular alphabetical catalogue of the books, maps, pamphlets, and manuscripts, natural curiosities, medals, coins, &c. ; and a full record of all the donations to the Society, with the names of the donors, in a book to be provided for that purpose. He shall transmit the thanks of the Society to the donors, and shall make a full report of all donations, at every regular meeting of the Society. He shall be authorized, under the direction of the Committee on the Library, to dispose of the published works of the Society by sale or exchange, and from time to time, as the Treasurer may prescribe,

shall pay over to him the money realized from such sale. He shall have the power to employ, at a salary to be fixed by the Committee on the Library, whenever that Committee shall deem it necessary, an Assistant Librarian, who shall be under his direction, and who, during the hours in which the Library is open, shall be present, whenever the Librarian himself is absent.

VIII. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to solicit and receive donations for the Society; to recommend plans for promoting its objects, and prepare business; and to authorize the disbursement and expenditure of unappropriated moneys in the hands of the Treasurer, for the payment of salaries and other current expenses. They shall have authority at any time to examine into the state of the finances; and generally to superintend the interests of the Society. They shall execute all such duties as may from time to time be committed to them, and make a report of their proceedings to the Society at each January meeting. The Chairman shall be designated at the time of the election of the Committee, and the Corresponding Secretary of the Society shall be *ex officio* Secretary of the Committee; and the Chairman shall be authorized to call meetings of the Committee whenever it may be thought advisable; at which, five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. They shall keep a true record of their proceedings, to be submitted to the inspection of the Society at its regular meetings.

IX. The Committee on Finance shall be charged with the duty of devising and recommending measures for meeting the monetary wants of the Society, and of

carrying them out when adopted. They shall have authority to prescribe such regulations as they may think advisable for the prompt and efficient collection of all dues from members. They shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer, and have a general supervision of the financial affairs of the Society.

X. The Committee on Publications shall superintend the printing and disposition of all publications authorized by the Society, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to them.

XI. The Committee on the Library shall be charged with the supervision of the rooms of the Society; shall have power to prescribe regulations for the preservation and use of the books; shall have power to expend, in their discretion, in the purchase of books and other articles, whatever sums may be placed at their disposal by the Society; and exchange with other Societies, or individuals, for other historical works, such duplicate volumes as they may think proper so to dispose of; and at the annual meeting of the Society, shall make a full report of the condition and progress of the Library and Cabinet.

XII. The Committee on Statistics shall be charged with the duty of arranging and collating all statistical matter received by the Society, and report thereon from time to time; and they shall be authorized, in the name and in behalf of the Society, to apply to any public functionaries or public bodies, for any additional information on subjects respecting which they may deem it advisable to institute inquiries.

XIII. The Committee on Nominations shall receive

all applications and nominations for membership ; and at each meeting shall recommend such persons for election as they may deem proper.

XIV. At the regular meetings of the Society the following shall be the order of business :

1. Reading the minutes of the last meeting.
2. Reading of letters, or a Report by the Corresponding Secretary.
3. Reports of the Treasurer and Librarian.
4. Reports of Executive and other Committees.
5. Election of members previously proposed.
6. Nomination of new members.
7. Miscellaneous business.
8. Communications and addresses before the Society.

This order of business may at any time be dispensed with by a majority of the members present.

XV. The election of members shall be by ballot, from such names as shall have been reported upon favorably by the Standing Committee on Nominations, to which all applications and nominations for membership shall be referred. Five negative ballots to exclude.

XVI. No alteration or amendment of these By-Laws shall be acted on, unless proposed at the last preceding regular meeting, and entered upon the journal.

Circular.

To the Citizens of the State of New Jersey:

FELLOW-CITIZENS: A number of the citizens of this State, in the month of February, 1845, formed, in the city of Trenton, an association under the name of "THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY."

The object of this Association is "to discover, procure and preserve whatever relates to any department of the History of New Jersey, natural, civil, literary, or ecclesiastical."

In the pursuit of this great object, we are actuated by an ardent desire to promote the intelligence, the improvement, and the honor of our State.

Such an institution has undoubtedly a just claim to the favorable regard and efficient aid of every friend to the public welfare, and we earnestly solicit the patronage and aid of the enlightened, the patriotic, and learned, in promoting the purpose for which it was formed.

It is well known that a considerable number of our sister States long anticipated us in the formation of societies having the same object as ours. Many of them have prosecuted this object to an extent, and with a zeal, at once honorable to themselves, and adapted to reflect a beneficial influence on the historical interests of our whole nation.

Our tardiness in following their noble example, is to be deeply regretted, and the steps taken to retrieve our delinquency have given general satisfaction.

It cannot be doubted by any who know the history and character of our public men and measures for a century and a half past, that many books, pamphlets, and manuscripts relating to the history of the State, remain in the possession of our citizens, who, though they would be unwilling to entrust them to a single person, would yet cheerfully confide them to a public institution, in whose custody they would be carefully preserved, be perfectly safe, and at the same time open for the general benefit of society.

Now it is our object to rescue such documents from the dust and darkness of private repositories; to place them in circumstances where they will be, as far as possible, secured from the corrosions of time, and the danger of destruction by accidents; and deposited in a situation in which the future historians and annalists of our State may find them concentrated for their use.

The framing of a full and satisfactory history of New Jersey is an achievement yet to be accomplished, and such a history of our State will never be completed until materials not yet collected shall be brought together, and their contents compared with that patient labor and enlightened discrimination, which those alone can exercise who are aware of the difficulties, and know how to appreciate the true excellence of historical composition; drawn not from ingenious conjectures and amusing fables, but from original and authentic documents.

This is a department of human effort in which almost every member of the community may render assistance. There are few individuals who, if they zealously devote their attention to the object, may not become instrumental in procuring some book, some pamphlet, some manuscript, some relic of antiquity, something which will serve to ascertain an important *date*, to establish a contested fact, or to pour light on some obscure point in history.

It will be perceived from the general title which we have assumed, as well as from the foregoing observations, that our plan includes the *natural*, and the *literary* history, as well as the civil and ecclesiastical history of our State.

It is *one* of our objects, to collect, preserve and exhibit every thing adapted to develop the *mineral*, *agricultural*, and *manufacturing* progress and riches of the State. As this greatly enlarges our field of labor, so does it bring that field not only within the view, but, if we may so speak, to the very door of every inhabitant of the State, and give every citizen of New Jersey an interest in our institution. And as the due cultivation of this field from its very extent will reward the co-operation of many laborers, so it is plain that it will be in the power of every adult citizen to contribute something to our success. These things being so, it is desirable that all the eyes and hands in our State should be, as far as possible, set to work.

The contents of every mountain, hill, valley, river and field, ought to be carefully explored; and this can be done only by the agency of many hands; and that these may co-operate in this last with good effect,

there ought to be an organized body to act, a centre of communication to receive, and a convenient and safe place of deposit. These our Association is intended to furnish. But even these, however faithfully devised, and amply furnished, will be unavailing, unless discerning and public-spirited individuals will exert themselves to collect rare and valuable documents, relics and specimens of every kind, to accompany them with appropriate descriptions, testimonials, and statements of localities, and to forward them to the place of accumulation. If such a spirit were widely diffused among our fellow-citizens, we should not labor in vain. An amount of materials might be collected, even in the space of a few months, of a most valuable character, and our Association might thus be rendered a public blessing, beyond the most sanguine hopes of those who have been active in its formation.

To an efficient co-operation in carrying out the great purposes of our institution, we would most *respectfully* and *earnestly* invite ALL our fellow-citizens. To every one who loves knowledge, and who would be glad to make the least contribution to the real improvement and honor of our State, we would say: turn not away with indifference from us—you can help us if you will; and we feel assured that your own interest will be eventually promoted by every degree of patronage with which you may be pleased to favor us. Despire not the day of small things. The suggestions of a single useful thought; the transmission of the smallest valuable pamphlet, manuscript, or specimen; the ascertaining of a *single fact*, however apparently trivial, pertaining to our early history, may be of great value to us, and will certainly be received with gratitude by the Society.

Jerseymen are not wont to be indifferent to that which will promote the interest or honor of their beloved State. Let us then, fellow-citizens, as true-hearted Jerseymen, unite our exertions in this good cause. Let each one bring some portion of the materials, out of which to rear a beacon, from whose summit will shine another light to guide the future historian, who may record the annals of our State.

We need scarcely say that contributions in money are needed, and will be thankfully received by our Association. It will readily recur to every reflecting mind that it is impossible to carry into effect, in any efficient manner, the plan of our Association, without considerable *expense*. To keep up and extend the depository for our historical treasures, manuscripts, &c., calls for considerable expenditure; but this will be a consideration of no amount to those who consider the importance of the object which we seek, and who remember the delicate caution

and care necessary to be exercised in regard to perishable papers and books, destined to occupy the same shelves for many years, perhaps for centuries together.

As soon as the means of the Society will permit, a fire-proof building will be provided as a permanent receptacle for all the property of the Society, where their collections will be as far as possible beyond the reach of the destroying influence of time or accident; so that all persons disposed to make contributions to its library or cabinet, may have the strongest confidence that they will be securely preserved. Until this is done, every regard will be paid to their safety and preservation.

This circular will be accompanied with a list of interrogatories, exhibiting with some minuteness of detail the points of inquiry which we wish our friends and correspondents to pursue. We hope that every inhabitant of the State whose eye they may meet will consider them as adapted to *himself in particular*, and will lose no time in transmitting every thing, however apparently trivial, which may come to his knowledge and possession, and falls in with the scope of our Association.

Communications may be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary, and donations made to any of the officers.

Interrogatories as to those points on which the Historical Society of New Jersey request particular information.

1. Can you give any information, however minute, concerning the origin, original name and settlement of any of the cities and towns in this State, particularly of your own township or district, and the number, names and condition of the first colonists? or do you know any thing especially remarkable in their history, at any particular period: or can you inform us where such information may be obtained?

2. Do you possess, or can you put us in the way of obtaining any documents which throw light on the first organization of civil government in your part of the State, or in any other part; or which will furnish authentic information concerning the names, general characters, powers, conduct, salaries, &c., of the principal officers appointed at different times from the earliest periods?

3. Can you furnish any information concerning any Indian tribes, which formerly inhabited any part of what is now the State of New Jersey; their numbers, names, and condition when first visited by the whites; their trades, disputes, wars, and treaties, either among themselves or with the white people; their character, customs, and general history, or when they finally disappeared from the country; or give any account of the adventures of captives, travelers, or voyages among them?

4. What were the *Indian names* of the mountains, valleys, rivers, capes, springs, caverns, or other remarkable places in your neighborhood? and what do well-informed people suppose to be the original import of their names?

5. Can you furnish any laws, journals, copies of records, and proceedings of congresses, legislatures, general assemblies, conventions, treaties or negotiations of any kind, with any Indian tribes, or with any state or nation?

6. Can you furnish copies of any orations, essays, sermons, discourses, poems or tracts, delivered, written and published on any public occasion or which concern any public transaction, or remarkable character or event?

7. Can you furnish copies of any magazines, reviews, newspapers, or other periodical publications, particularly such as appeared prior to the year 1800, or give information where they can be obtained?

8. Can you furnish any *Statistical Tables* of agricultural productions, the births, deaths, diseases, meteorological observations, or facts relating to climate or remarkable seasons, in any part of our country, either remote or recent; or accounts of any remarkable diseases?

9. Are you possessed, or do you know, of any documents, printed or manuscript, relating to any *Territorial disputes* or arrangements, between New Jersey and any other Colony or State?

10. Can you furnish any copies of proceedings, either printed or manuscript, of any presbyteries, synods, general assemblies, conventions, or other ecclesiastical bodies of any denomination of Christians?

11. Do you know of any narratives of missionaries, or proceedings of any missionary societies in New Jersey, or carried on by citizens of the State or Colony of New Jersey?

12. What is the age of the church or congregation to which you belong? When was it first organized, and by whom? When was your house of worship built? What changes has it undergone since? What have been the names, the characters, and the respective lengths of the

ministry of your ministers or pastors? Did their ministry terminate among you by death or otherwise?

13. Can you furnish any biographical sketches, memoirs, or notices of any kind, of eminent Jerseymen—clergymen, lawyers, physicians, judges, legislators, or public benefactors of any class?

14. Can you furnish an unbroken list of all the clerks, sheriffs, and surrogates of your county?

15. When was your present court-house, and other county buildings erected, and where did your courts meet from the earliest period?

16. Can you furnish any topographical description or maps of cities, towns, or other remarkable places, exhibiting their condition and aspect, at different periods, and relating in any wise to the progressive geography of our State?

17. Have you ever heard of any papers, or other documents, of historical or local interest, in the possession of any individuals in your neighborhood or elsewhere? If so, can you mention the names of such individuals, or suggest the means of obtaining them?

18. Do you know any instances of remarkable *longevity* in your part of this State? or have you ever heard of any still more remarkable, of which you can give or obtain authentic information?

19. What public libraries have you in the town or city where you live? When were they founded? How many volumes do they contain? And who had the chief agency in founding them?

20. What were the first articles manufactured in your neighborhood, and when? What facts can you furnish respecting the character and progress of manufactures since that time?

21. What information do you possess concerning the state of the *militia*, in any part of New Jersey, at different times, especially at *early* periods; their numbers, organization, mode of equipment, &c.?

22. Can you give any information respecting the rise, progress and present state of the colleges and academies in our State; the individuals chiefly active in forming them; the names of the presidents, professors, and trustees; the number of their students and graduates at different times, and the amount of their endowments and revenues?

23. Can you give any information concerning the discovery and working of *mines* in any part of the State; the commencement of the manufacture of *iron*; the use of *coal*; the establishment of navigation by steam in any of our waters, &c.?

24. Can you furnish any interesting facts in regard to the discovery and application of marl? or of deposits found therein?

25. Can you furnish any facts or documents concerning the conveniences for traveling in early periods of our State's history? The progressive improvements in roads, and other modes of communication between different places? The names of the most prominent actors in suggesting and constructing the various turnpike roads, canals and railroads in the State? or any remarkable facts in their history, from their construction to the present day?

26. When and by whom was the first *newspaper* or periodical printed in your town or county, and what was its character? Are any of the numbers in existence, and if so, can they be had? and furnish us with the history of printing in your county.

27. What attention did the early settlers in your part of the State pay to the education of their children? or do you know anything of the character, qualifications, or labors of any school teachers at that early period? Who, at different times, chiefly promoted the *common* school system in some part of the State?

28. Can you communicate any *facts* which will throw light on the state of *commerce* in any particular part of New Jersey at different times, and especially at early periods? The *number of ships* belonging to particular ports; the exports and imports for a series of years; the principal articles imported and exported, and from whence brought?

29. Will you have the goodness, in making any communications to our depository, to inform us as minutely as you can, concerning the names, characters and localities connected with your communications, and *very carefully* to impart *your own name, residence, &c.*, so that a due acknowledgment may be recorded on the books of the Society?

PUBLICATIONS
OF THE
New Jersey Historical Society.

“COLLECTIONS, VOL. I.,” containing “East Jersey under the Provincial Governments; a Narrative of Events connected with the Settlement and Progress of the Province, until the Surrender of the Government to the Crown in 1702. Drawn principally from Original Sources: by WILLIAM A. WHITEHEAD. With an Appendix, containing a Model of the Government of East New Jersey, by George Scot, of Pitlochie, now first re-printed from the original edition of 1685.” 8vo., pp. 342—xv., with Maps and Plates. (Out of print.)

“COLLECTIONS, VOL. II.,” containing “The Life of William Alexander, Earl of Stirling, Major-General in the Army of the United States during the Revolution: with selections from his Correspondence, by his Grandson, WILLIAM ALEXANDER DUER, LL. D.” 8vo., pp. 284, with Portrait and Maps. \$1.

“COLLECTIONS, VOL. III.,” containing “The Provincial Courts of New Jersey, with Sketches of the Bench and Bar, by RICHARD S. FIELD.” 8vo., pp. 324. \$1.50.

“COLLECTIONS, VOL. IV.,” containing the Papers of Lewis Morris, Governor of the Province of New Jersey from 1733 to 1746. With Portrait. 8vo., pp. 336—xxx. \$2.

“COLLECTIONS, VOL. V.,” containing “An Analytical Index to the Colonial Documents of New Jersey, in the State Paper Offices of England, compiled by HENRY STEVENS. Edited, with Notes and References to printed works and manuscripts in other depositories, by WILLIAM A. WHITEHEAD. 8vo., pp. 504—xxx. \$2.50.

“COLLECTIONS, VOL. VI.,” containing “Records of the Town of Newark, New Jersey, from its Settlement in 1666, to its Incorporation as a City in 1836—with Maps.” 8vo., pp. 294—x. \$2.

And SUPPLEMENT thereto, containing “Proceedings Commemorative of the Settlement of Newark, New Jersey, on its Two Hundredth Anniversary, May 17th, 1866,” comprising: I. Historical Memoir, by William A. Whitehead; II. Lyrical Poem,

by Thomas Ward, M. D.; III. Oration, by William B. Kinney;
IV. Genealogical Notes of the Settlers, by Samuel H. Congar;
V. Notes—8vo., pp. 182. \$1.50.

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